

**P A T E N T**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Gene DIPOTO et al.	Confirmation No.:	9623
Serial No.:	10/693,663	Examiner:	James L. Swiger, III
Filed:	October 24, 2003	Group Art Unit:	3733
Docket No.:	1291.1142101	Customer No.:	28075
Title:	METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR FIXATION OF THE SPINE THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE		

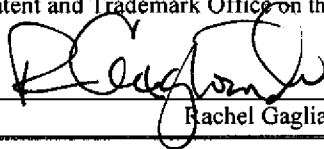
**AMENDMENT**

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on this 9th day of September 2009.

By



Rachel Gagliardi

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action of the Examiner mailed June 9, 2009, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on September 9, 2009. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.